

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 01185

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETEL, SOPN, PL, US
SUBJECT: RFE - GOP COMPLAINT

REF: (A) STATE 47194, (B) WARSAW 1432 AND PREVIOUS,
(C) MUNICH 826, (D) MUNICH 827

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES RFE
MANAGEMENT'S VIEWS ON COMPLAINT WHICH POLISH MFA
DEPARTMENT III DIRECTOR SZEWCZYK MADE TO CHARGE BROWN
FEBRUARY 20. COPIES OF TRANSCRIPTS OF RELEVANT BROAD-
CASTS AS WELL AS WIRE SERVICE AND OTHER WESTERN MEDIA
ITEMS DEALING WITH THE KRAKOW INCIDENT INVOLVING ADAM
MICHNIK HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT (SEYMOUR)
AND WARSAW (BLACK). END SUMMARY.

2. INTERNAL DIVISION IN POLISH GOVERNMENT AND PZPR.
AS INDICATED IN REFTEL C, RFE MANAGEMENT OBSERVES THAT
RFE REFERENCE TO SOME PZPR LEADERS AS "GANG OF FOUR" WAS
INTENDED TO BE HUMOROUS. MANAGEMENT ALSO NOTES THAT RFE
DID NOT REPEAT NOT ORIGINATE THIS REFERENCE BUT SOURCED
IT TO WARSAW. IN RFE VIEW, DISCUSSION OF PARTY DIVISIONS,
PROVIDED THEY ARE WELL SOURCED, CONSTITUTE NEWS
AND ARE THEREFORE LEGITIMATE BROADCAST TOPICS. (MATERIALS
SENT TO DEPARTMENT AND WARSAW CONTAIN INTERESTING LE MONDE
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ARTICLE BY MANUEL LUCBERT ON INTERNAL DIFFERENCES IN
PZPR.)

3. ELECTIONS TO NATIONAL (PEOPLES) COUNCILS. REFTEL D
(STADIS) OUTLINED CONGEN'S VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. ALTHOUGH
MANAGEMENT BELIEVES THIS SUBJECT MAY HAVE BEEN PLAYED
A BIT TOO HEAVILY IN WEEK PRECEDING THE ELECTIONS,

MANAGEMENT EMPHASIZES FACT THAT NO REPEAT NOT APPEALS TO BOYCOTT ELECTIONS WERE BROADCAST. POLISH BD POINTED TO FACT THAT LISTENERS ENJOY CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING RIGHT NOT REPEAT NOT TO ACCEPT THE SINGLE LIST OF CANDIDATES AS WELL AS RIGHT NOT REPEAT NOT TO VOTE AT ALL. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL D, RFE BROADCAST CAREFULLY SOURCED APPEALS BY VARIOUS DISSIDENT GROUPS IN POLAND. SOME OF THESE DISSIDENT GROUPS ADVOCATED BOYCOTT OF ELECTIONS.

4. POLICE BRUTALITY IN KRAKOW. RFE MANAGEMENT NOTES THAT THE INCIDENT OF THE "ALLEGED" BEATING OF ADAM MICHNIK BY KRAKOW POLICE AND THE TEAR GASSING OF A GROUP OF STUDENTS WHO HAD GATHERED TO HEAR ONE OF HIS LECTURES WAS REPORTED FULLY IN WESTERN MEDIA. RFE HAS PROVIDED CONGEN WITH COPIES OF RELEVANT STORIES BY REUTER, DIE WELT, AFP (GERMAN LANGUAGE SERVICE), LE MONDE, FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, ARD (GERMAN) TELEVISION AND THE SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, AS WELL AS RFE/RL CENTRAL NEWS DEPARTMENT ITEMS WRITTEN ON THE BASIS OF THESE STORIES. IN VIEW OF THESE WESTERN MEDIA REPORTS, RFE MANAGEMENT BELIEVES THERE CAN BE NO REPEAT NO DOUBT THAT MICHNIK WAS "BEATEN" BY POLICE. BETTS

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